

For the convenience of the Examiner, applicants are including below an excerpt from the amendment and RCE filed on September 10, 2003, explaining where to find support in the specification for claim 69.

Claim 69 is directed to a system for conducting an experiment on biological cells. Support for the preamble can be found, for example, in Figure 7, and the corresponding description on page 18 of the specification.

Claim 69 recites a mixture of at least two carriers randomly distributed on the surface. Support for this can be found throughout the specification, for example, see Figure 4, and page 16, lines 30-32; Figure 7G, and description on page 18, lines 13 and 14; and page 26, lines 8-11.

Claim 69 also recites that the carriers have a flat surface. This element is supported in the specification on page 29, lines 21-23. The claim also recites that the carriers are formed of fused glass or plastic fibers of varying color. Support for these carrier limitations can be found, for example, beginning on page 12, line 32 through page 13, line 20.

Claim 69 also recites an imaging device which acquires a set of images, each image corresponding to a different spectral band. Support for this element can be found on page 21, lines 12-13.

Claim 69 also recites an image analysis system including a computer programmed to identify a class of cells supported by one or more carriers. Computers for analyzing and interpreting image information are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Image processing techniques employing appropriate software are described in the specification on pages 20 and 21. Details concerning development of and use of masks for one or more carriers of the same code are described on pages 6 and 7 of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/129,664, filed on April 15, 1999, which is incorporated by reference in the subject application. Portions of pages 6 and 7 from the provisional application are attached for the Examiner's

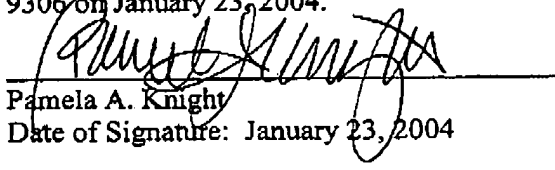
convenience. The provisional application also refers to reference texts and commercially available software for use on a computer as recited in the claim.

Applicants believe all of the pending claims are patentable over the art of record.

Please contact applicants' attorney if there are any further issues to address.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

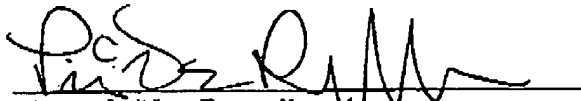
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to Examiner My Chau Tran at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on January 23, 2004.


Pamela A. Knight

Date of Signature: January 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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